Welcome to Story Station U on 89-3 WGSU, Geneseo's Voice of the Valley, your local radio broadcast where campus life meets American headlines! I'm your host, Madilyn Becker, and I'll be breaking down the recent news that could change your weekend plans- or maybe your future! Don't forget: you can follow along with tonight's script and read all of my sources online at the WGSU website!

Thank you for spending part of your evening with me and listening to Story Station U! If you have any thoughts on the show, questions you've been wanting to ask me, or headlines you want me to cover, send me an email! Email me at storystationu@gmail.com to get in touch! Again, that's ''story station, with a lowercase letter u'' at gmail.com. I would love to hear from you!

It's been a week packed-full of news! Starting our show off tonight is recent developments in the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine. Volodymyr Zelensky, the president of Ukraine, announced today that he will agree to certain terms to end the war. The president publicly stated that he would release all Russian prisoners currently being held in Ukraine, as well as end the drone and missile strikes on Russian targets, however, only if Russia is willing to agree to the same terms. This comes after President Zelensky came to the U.S., one of Ukraine's allies, to discuss a peace deal with current President Trump. President Zelensky said that Ukraine is ready to work with President Trump and the United States to negotiate peace. This statement comes after the explosive meeting between the two leaders, which was followed by President Trump's announcement that he would be pausing all military aid to Ukraine, with arms and ammunition from the U.S. totalling over $1 billion dollars.

Now, I have an in-depth look at the meeting that preceded these announcements. This past Friday, President Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance invited the Ukrainian President to the Oval Office to discuss a peace deal, ending the war in Ukraine. In February of 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine, leading to a violent war. Ukraine, United States ally, has been fighting relentless, bloody battles for over three years now, and many Americans have urged for a peace deal to be made. Donald Trump, while campaigning in 2024, said that he would have this deal made within ''twenty-four hours'' of being president. However, his recent meeting with President Zelensky ended abruptly, and on uneven grounds. During the televised meeting, Vice President Vance called President Zelensky ''disrespectful'' for pleading for peace in front of the American people. President Trump responded by, raising his voice at, and interrupting the Ukrainian president as he tried to explain his case. President Trump yelled "You're not really in a good position right now'' and ''you're gambling with World War three" at President Zelensky. The visit was abruptly cut short, and President Zelensky was seen solemnly leaving the White House, as reported by the New York Times. This heated meeting left many frustrated and afraid. Former democratic United States Representative and diplomat, Joe Kennnedy III, posted a video of the exchange on his X, formerly known as Twitter, account, calling it ''shameful and disgusting". In an article published by Yahoo News, anonymously posting citizens' reactions to the meeting, one X user wrote ''I was an avid Trump supporter" before explaining their disapproval of President Trump's demeanor during the exchange. Another citizen anonymously quoted in the article said, ''we might as well have voted for Vladimir Putin". This seemingly

referred to the way that President Trump spoke about Vladimir Putin, the president of Russia, during his meeting with President Zelensky. Donald Trump told the Ukrainian president that him and President Putin had ''been through a lot'' together. He went even further to mention the ''Russian Hoax'', his nickname for the investigation into Vladimir Putin's suspected attempts to help Donald Trump win the presidency in 2017. However, Senator Lindsey Graham released a statement in support of President Trump after the meeting. He wrote "I have never been more proud of the president". He continued to also praise Vice President, J.D. Vance, and bash President Zelensky. The senator said: "I was very proud of J.D. Vance for standing up for our country" and that he ''doesn't know" if the U.S. can ''ever do business with Zelensky again". Dmitri Medvedev, a top Russian official also reacted to the United States' meeting with President Zelensky, referring to him as an ''insolent pig'', and saying that he finally got a ''proper slap down in the Oval Office". The leaders of several European allies, including France, issued statements in support of the Ukrainian president after his volatile visit to the White House. These statements also come after the U.S. agreed with Russia at the most recent United Nations general assembly by voting against a "Europe-backed" resolution to ''immediately" withdraw Russian troops from Ukraine, according to AP News. The European-proposed resolution cites ''the full-scale invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation" and calls for an immediate and unconditional removal of Russian troops for Ukraine. The U.S., after voting against this resolution, proposed its own document. The United States' resolution, however, seemed less harsh against Russia. It states to implore ''a swift end to the conflict including by addressing its root causes, and further urges a lasting peace between Russia and Ukraine". Russia, as reported by AP News, suggested the addition of the line ''by addressing its root causes". The Russian United Nations ambassador endorsed the U.S. resolution, calling it a ''good move''. However, after the assembly's vote, the United States' resolution was not passed. Instead, the U.N. backed the European allies' resolution. The passing of that resolution has left the ball in Russia's court. The language in the European-backed resolution demands that Russia remove its troops from Ukraine to reach peace, and blames Russia and Russian troops for letting the war continue.

Our next headline tonight may not have international effects, but has certainly gotten attention from all over America. Some republican lawmakers have asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision on the 2015 case, Obergefell V. Hodges. This case legalized same-sex marriage in the U.S., however Republican officials in Idaho, Michigan, Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota have called upon the Supreme Court to rehear this case. Other states have issued similar resolutions voicing concerns over the right to same-sex marriage. Severalof these states have passed resolutions establishing their support for revisiting same-sex marriage laws in the U.S. Resolutions, however, are not legally binding, and only express representatives' views. However, it has been made clear by these resolutions that there is opposition from some lawmakers to the Supreme Court's original decision in 2015 to legalize gay marriage. Michigan representative, Republican Josh Schriver, introduced his own legislation calling for an end to same-sex marriages, saying that it would benefit the ''human race", while citing Christian values to support his claim. Mike McFall, a Democrat Michigan representative called out Schriver for discrimination against LGBTQ+ Americans, adding that Michigan leaders should be focusing on ''pressing issues,''like improving the economy and lowering the cost of living. While many

states, including, Alabama, Kansas, Kentucky, and Oklahoma, have legislation in place to restrict same-sex marriage if Obergefell V. Hodges is overturned, former President Joe Biden's Respect for Marriage Act guarantees the recognition of same sex marriages in the event of the Supreme Court overturning the 2015 landmark case. Despite growing support, it is not confirmed that the Supreme Court will rehear the case. Many law experts, including Kate Shaw, a law professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, and constitutional law scholar, have argued that the court cannot rehear a case unless there is a live event causing a dispute. As the state resolutions hold no legal power, a live dispute would only come if one of these states were to pass a law limiting same-sex marriage. If you identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community and need support, the official website of the Human Rights Campaign, hrc.org, lists hotlines for mental health support for many different groups of the LGBTQ+ community. The Trevor Project lets LGBTQ+ youth meet other members of the community online at thetrevorproject.org, as well as offering suicide prevention resources and accepting donations from allies to further their efforts. If you are a SUNY Geneseo student who identifies as LGBTQ+ and are in need of support, the student pride alliance at SUNY Geneseo holds weekly meetings on Fridays from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Union Fireside Lounge, and beginning April 7th will hold support group meetings on Fridays from 1:00-2:00 p.m., also in the Union. Mental health counseling appointments are always available at the campus Lauderdale health center. We still have more news to cover, but let's break for a short announcement from WGSU.

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Welcome back to Story Station U! Let's get right into our next headline of tonight: the world may be on the brink of an economic war. Early this morning, just after midnight, President Trump's proposed tariffs on Canada and Mexico went into effect. Imports from these countries will now come with a 25% tax. He also raised U.S. tariffs on imports from China to 20%. Tariffs work similarly to import taxes. American businesses and consumers could pay an increased price on goods and energy sources coming from these countries that President Trump has applied tariffs on. However, foreign businesses could also choose to lower their prices to account for the increased tax. This is what many politicians hope to see happen when they impose tariffs, resulting in other countries' economies hurting, and the U.S. economy flourishing as consumers purchase more American-made products. This was Donald Trump's idea when he applied tariffs on foreign imports during his first term in 2018. However, this time around, economists worry that the tariffs will have negative effects on American consumers, and they are already seeing evidence of a trade war beginning. Shortly after the president's tariffs took effect, Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, announced that Canada would place its own tariffs on $100 billion worth of American goods in the coming weeks. Mexican president, Claudia Sheinbaum, also announced a retaliatory tariff of 25% on American goods. Her announcement of which U.S. goods will be taxed is expected to come on Sunday. China also quickly announced its retaliation, placing an additional 10%-15% tariffs on some American goods. Trade and tax services official, Damon Pike, suggested that these retaliations could create a trade war. Republican senator from Maine, Susan Collins, has already voiced her concerns over this possible economic battle. She explained the close connection between Canada's and Maine's economy, as much of Maine's fruits and shellfish is processed in Canada, and then

shipped to the U.S. Adding to many officials' concerns is the pure amount of trade that is affected by these new tariffs. China, Mexico, and Canada are America's main trade partners, a d commerce between the countries can be worth up to $2.2 trillion dollars annually, according to Reuters News. The Canadian Prime Minister stated that ''Tariffs will disrupt an incredibly successful trading relationship". Wall Street's main stocks dropped for the second day in a row after these new tariffs went into effect, feeding fears of a negative impact on the U.S. economy. Items that American consumers could soon see an increase of price on include avocados and other produce from Mexico, as well as electronics, including laptops and smartphones, that are imported from China. Some news sources, including Reuters and The Independent, have started to warn consumers of a possible recession triggered by these tariffs.

Next up tonight: some environmental news. New wildfires have started in North and South Carolina. The National Weather Service has issued warnings to both states as winds are expected to increase, worsening the fires. As of Monday night, fire and rescue teams have reported the fires near South Carolina's Myrtle Beach to be only 30% contained, and to have already burned over 2,000 acres. A separate wildfire in North Carolina was reported to be just over 60% contained. Between North and South Carolina, approximately one-hundred and seventy-five fires have been reported. As of this afternoon, fifteen buildings in one county in North Carolina have fallen victim to the burns. However, police departments have encouraged residents to stay put in their homes, as the fires are being contained and smoke is making road-visibility conditions extremely difficult and unsafe. No casualties due to the fires have been reported. The Washington Post has cited extremely limited rain and low humidity as conditions that have helped the fires start and continue to spread. Rachel Cleetus, the policy director of the Climate and Energy Program within the Union of Concerned Scientists group, warned that climate change has led to the decreased levels of rainfall, which are especially concerning now, during spring fire season. She has also stated that southern fire and rescue teams are struggling to fight these fires amid the Department of Government Efficiency, commonly known as DOGE, cuts to Forest Service personnel and pause on wildfire-related grants, headed up by Elon Musk. The specific cuts that Cleetus refers to are the termination of 10% of all the U.S. Forest Service personnel and the pause on federal grants meant to help lower the intensity and risk of wildfires. Forest Service personnel would typically be thinning trees, clearing brush, and carrying out controlled burns during fire season, however, due to the cuts, workers are more uncertain about available resources.

To end our show tonight, I'd like to highlight that March is Women's History Month! Women's History Month began in 1980 after groups of activists and historians, led by the National Women's History Project, argued for national recognition of Women's History Week, which began being celebrated in California years earlier. Former President Jimmy Carter gave the week national recognition in 1980, and in 1987, Congress passed legislation dedicating March as Women's History Month. This month is dedicated to learning about the contributions that women have made to society throughout history. I'd like to highlight a few notable women. Former Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg made several landmark decisions, including to open the doors of the last all male, public university to women. Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served as the first female justice on the Supreme Court. Pro-tennis player, Serena

Williams, currently holds more Grand Slam titles than any other active player, male or female. She has also advocated against discrimination in sports, pointing out that "black women earn 17% less than their white female counterparts". Katharine Graham was an American, female publisher and became the first woman to be the publisher of a major newspaper in the 1970s while working for The Washington Post. If you are a SUNY Geneseo student looking to further celebrate Women's History Month, Geneseo's Peace Action club is holding a meeting tomorrow, March 5th, in Bailey 246 at 6:00 p.m. to make signs and prepare for the International Women's Day March being held from 1:00-2:00 p.m. this Saturday. The march will begin on the corner of Main Street and Doty Hall. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting and march. If you have any historical women you'd like me to highlight during Women's History Month, email me at storystationu@gmail.com and let me know! I'd love to discuss history that you are passionate about this month!

As always, let's take a moment for this week's moment of good news! The Fountain House foundation, a group working towards improving the quality of life for those suffering from poor mental health, recently received a $12 million dollar donation. MacKenzie Scott, the ex-wife of billionaire Jeff Bezos, promised in 2015, after her divorce, that she would give away most of the wealth she had acquired from her ex-husband andt is making good on that promise, with this significant donation. Fountain House recognizes not only the financial troubles that those with serious mental illnesses go through while trying to receive proper care, but also the lack of self-worth and belonging they often feel in social situations. The organization connects those with serious mental illness to a community that offers them support in finding healthcare, mental healthcare, housing, employment, and a community where they feel welcomed. Fountain House does accept donations online. If you are struggling with mental health, the 988 mental health crisis hotline is always available by texting or calling 988. Locally, Livingston County Mental Health Center has many events each month, including several different support groups. The calendar of events and more information can be found on the official Livingston County website. For SUNY Geneseo students, Geneseo Pathways is an anonymous, peer-to-peer program. Peer advocates have completed training in helping skills. Their phone number and email can be found on the Contact Pathways section of SUNY Geneseo's official website.

That's our top headlines for tonight, but the world never stops spinning and news never stops breaking, so join me again next Tuesday, same place, same time for all of your top headlines! Don't forget you can read my script and see all of tonight's sources on WGSU's website! And don't forget, you can email me about all things Story Station U at storystationu@gmail.com! Thank you again for joining me tonight. I'm your host, Madilyn Becker, and I'll talk to you next week on 89-3 WGSU, Geneseo's Voice of the Valley!